

## Plans For Town Office

The proposed new town office building, plus renovations to Old Town Hall, as part of the complex at the former Partridge Academy site on Tremont St., would cost about \$715,000. If Old Town Hall is not renovated the cost would drop to \$610,000.

The committee at the Annual Town Meeting will ask for the appointment of a building committee and up to \$55,200 for architect's fees to prepare working drawings to go out to bid.

Peter Barker, chairman of the committee, said plans link Old Town Hall with the proposed new town office building by village green type landscaping, not physically.

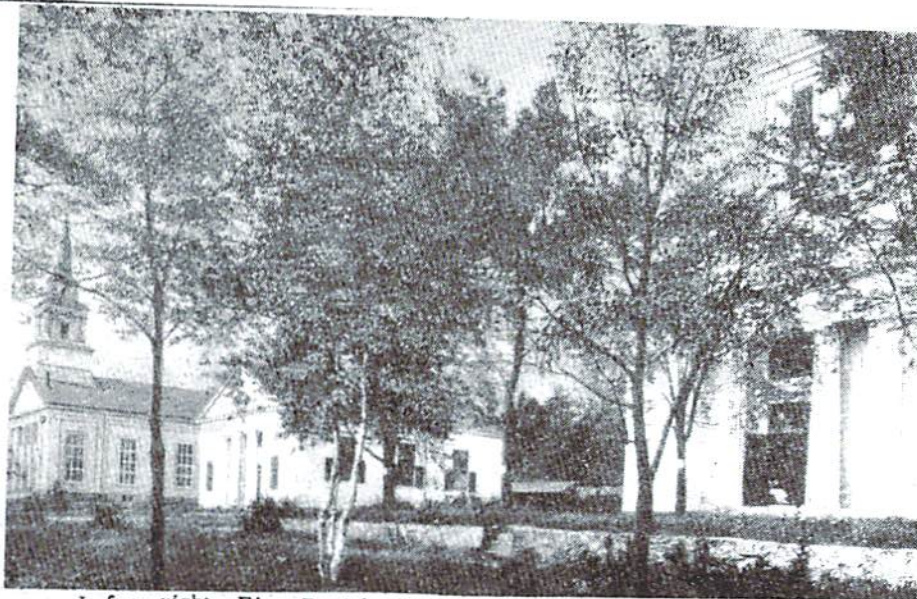
The proposed structure would harmonize with existing buildings on the site, including Old Town Hall and The First Parish Church. The facade would resemble Old Town Hall and former Partridge Academy.

The 2-story building would have 18,225 square feet of space including two mechanical cores. These cores would be separated by a public waiting area.

The plan has 5 offices on the first floor, 6 on the second along with storage space, rest rooms, vaults and an elevator, as required by law. The basement would have a lunchroom, assembly rooms and storage space. Parking would accommodate about 50 cars.

Movable partitions would make the building flexible.

The cost of new construction would be \$32 per square foot,



Left to right - First Parish Church, Town Hall, Partridge Academy

compared to \$25 per square foot for renovations to Old Town Hall. The \$715,000 figure is a turnkey proposition. It includes site work, building, furnishing, equipment and moving expenses.

The structure would house all town departments, except the cemetery, tree, highway and superintendent of schools.

The committee told the Finance Committee they would meet with the town office personnel, selectmen, senior citizens and capital budget committee before making a public presentation.

Barker said Eastern Associates, the architects, have been paid \$4,000. This sum will be deducted from his fees if a

building committee selects him as the architect.

Sale of the present town office building on St. George St. and the former central fire station on Chestnut St., along with money that may be available from various funds, would reduce the total cost of the project substantially.



Partridge Academy

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